



Smithsonian *National Museum of African Art*

The Smithsonian National Museum of African Art applauds the efforts of Secretary Arne Duncan and the U.S. Department of Education and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and the U.S. Department of State on their partnership in promoting the importance of international education during the 11th Annual International Education Week, November 15 -19, 2010. The National Museum of African Art has a long history of programming that reflects this year's theme, *International Education: Striving for a Sustainable Future*. Our museum is a unique free-choice learning environment and as such, we offer opportunities for audiences to engage in programming activities that serve to build bridges of mutual respect, inspire curiosity and make meaningful connections and contributions to enrich the understanding of the diverse cultures and artistic heritage of Africa. Our educators offer audiences of all ages a stimulating multifaceted view of Africa's artistic traditions.

Art not only brings joy and compassionate understanding, art also delivers the kind of necessary education about one another that we carry out at the National Museum of African Art. Art has the ability to question, most of all it has the ability to teach and heal.

Our museum school programs strive to engage students with African cultural heritage, promote tolerance, and teach the importance of treating all cultural and linguistic backgrounds as equally valid and important in a global community. Our ***"Let's Read about Africa"*** series incorporates important lessons and themes such as fairness, honesty, trust, strength, kindness, and overcoming obstacles. Themes of diversity as well as commonality are at the heart of all the stories we share.

In addition to the performing arts, the museum offers interdisciplinary programming—**Sounds of Africa, Studio Africa!**, workshop and school partnerships—that integrates multiple subjects, including social studies, history, math, science, geography and the environment. We look forward to an exciting week.